

UNCLASSIFIED 2/12/82

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ACTION ARA-16

R D15

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 INR-10 SS-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 IO-15
NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-05 PM-09 PA-01 MCT-02 BIB-01
ICAE-00 SP-02 SPRS-02 /074 W

-----354201 122308Z /62

R 121902Z FEB 82
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2448
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS PN
USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
☒ Release () Excise () Deny
Exemption(s): _____
Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full
() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to _____
Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

[REDACTED] BUENOS AIRES 0851

CINCSO FOR INTAFF

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: GDS 2/12/88 (FRIEDMAN, T.B.) OR-P
TAGS: SHUM, AR
SUBJECT: (U) AN APPARENT DISAPPEARANCE

1. (U) ON FEB 10, ARGENTINA'S SEVERAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION PUBLICIZED THE ALLEGED DISSAPEARANCE ON FEB. 4 OF 23-YEAR OLD ANA MARIA MARTINEZ. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS WHICH WAS REPORTED IN MOST PAPERS FEB. 11, MARTINEZ, WHO IS THREE MONTHS PREGNANT, WAS SEIZED IN FRONT OF WITNESSES BY AN ARMED MAN AND ARMED WOMEN WHO SHOVED HER INTO A CAR AS SHE WAS RETURNING TO HER HOME IN A BUENOS AIRES SUBURB. A HABEAS CORPUS WAS FILED ON HER BEHALF FEB. 9.

2. [REDACTED] COMMENT: THOUGH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS DID NOT SAY SO, MARTINEZ WAS AN ACTIVE MEMBER OF THE BANNED SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (PST), A NON-VIOLENT TROTSKYIST ORGANIZATION WHICH BROKE WITH THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL SEVERAL YEARS AGO. THIS INFORMATION

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WAS PROVIDED TO US BY A PST MEMBER WHO CALLED AT THE EMBASSY FEB. 12 AND ALSO STATED THAT MARTINEZ

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WAS BUSY TRYING TO ORGANIZE WORKERS AMONG WHOM THE PST IS THE MOST AGGRESSIVE LEFTIST GROUP. MOREOVER, SHE HAD RECENTLY BEEN VERY PROMINENT IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF THREE PST MEMBERS WHO HAD BEEN LEGALLY DETAINED BY THE POLICE. HER BACKGROUND MAKES CREDIBLE THE CHARGE OF DISAPPEARANCE.

3. [REDACTED] SINCE A PST MEMBER WAS FOUND DEAD OF MULTIPLE BULLET WOUNDS LAST MARCH, THE ORGANIZATION HAS NOT EXPERIENCED ANY EXTRA-LEGAL REPRESSION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT MARTINEZ'S AT LEAST TEMPORARY DISAPPEARANCE IS PROBABLY TRACEABLE TO HER PST MEMBERSHIP.

4. [REDACTED] ON FEB. 11, WE DISCUSSED THE REPORTED DISAPPEARANCE WITH SUBSECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR COL. BERNARDO MENDEZ (WHO IS RUNNING THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AS MINISTER SAINT JEAN IS ACCOMPANYING THE PRESIDENT IN THE PROVINCE OF LA PAMPA). MENENDEZ STATED THAT HE AND HIS MINISTRY WOULD BE WORKING TO CLEAR UP THE DISAPPEARANCE, AND WAS FULLY AWARE OF THE DAMAGE SUCH AN INCIDENT DOES. OUR OWN FEELING IS THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY AN OPERATION CONDUCTED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF NATIONAL AUTHORITIES. IN THE PAST, PST MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DETAINED FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS WITHOUT THEIR DETENTION BEING ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE AUTHORITIES. IF IT IS STILL POSSIBLE, WE BELIEVE MENENDEZ AND HIS SUPERVISORS WILL TRY TO FIND A WAY TO MAKE MARTINEZ REAPPEAR. SHLAUDEMAN

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